

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 350

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4125

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR ETRD CH

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF NEGATIVE PRESSSTORIES ON US-PRC COMM-
ERCIAL RELATIONS

1. NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE HONG KONG BUREAU CHIEF JENKINS MAY FOLLOW UP APRIL 8 EDITION STORY ON TCK SMUT (STATE 66255) WITH ARTICLE ON DOWNTURN IN US-PRC TRADE RELATIONS AS EVIDENCED BY PROBLEMS WITH US CORN SHIPMENTS AND TRAVEL RESTRICTION ON US REPORTERS AND OFFICIALS. NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR US-CHINA TRADE (NCUSCT) VICE PRESIDENT THEROUX, WHO VISITED HONG KONG APRIL 10-13, TOLD JENKINS THAT PRCLO HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER BLIGHT PRESENT IN SHIPMENTS OF US CORN TO CHINA. JENKINS AND OTHER HONG KONG BASED US CORRESPONDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED VISAS TO COVER THIS SPRING'S CANTON TRADE FAIR. JENKINS IS ALSO AWARE THAT CANTON FAIR VISAS HAVE NOT BEEN YET ISSUED TO CONGEN PERSONNEL. HE HAS INDICATED THAT THESE FACTS MAY FORM BASIS FOR ARTICLE ON STATE OF US-PRC COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

2. ON APRIL 15 JENKINS CONTACTED CONGEN AND ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON NATURE OF CORN BLIGHT AND STATUS OF CONGEN VISA

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MATION ON NATURE OF CORN BLIGHT AND STATUS OF CONGEN VISA

APPLICATIONS. CONGENOFFS SAID WE HAD NO INFORMATION ON CORN
PROBLEM AND SAID WE HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION AS YET ABOUT
VISAS. ALSO REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON PROSPECTS FOR VISAS.
OTHER US JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING WASHINGTON POST GREENWAY) ALSO
ALSO AWARE OF CORN BLIGHT , VISA PROBLEMS AND NCUSCT STATEMENT THAT
ONLY US IMPORTERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO CANTON FAIR. THEY MAY
INCULDE THESE ELEMENTS IN THEIR OWN STORIES ON SINO-US RELATIONS.
CROSS

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